

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 6, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9 have been amended and claims 10-18 are added. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed October 6, 2004, claims 1 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,246,895 (Plewes).

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Plewes in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,176 (McKinnon).

Claim 2, 4, and 5 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the allowable subject matter, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. Furthermore, claims 4 and 5 are rewritten in independent form, each including the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 3.

Independent claim 8, drawn to a system, has been rewritten to include limitations corresponding to the allowable limitations of claim 2. New claims 11 and 13 are also drawn to a system and include limitations corresponding to the allowable limitations of claims 4 and 5.

Independent claim 9, drawn to a computer-readable medium, has been rewritten to include limitations corresponding to the allowable limitations of claim 2. New claims 15 and 17 are also drawn to a computer-readable medium and include limitations corresponding to the allowable limitations of claims 4 and 5.

Since each of the independent claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 incorporates subject matter found to be allowable, independent claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 should now be allowable.

Dependent claims 2-7, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18 each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15, and 17, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15, and 17.

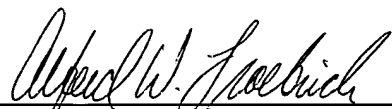
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

A check in the amount \$528.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 6 new independent claims in excess of three.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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